

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 05146 061111Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSO-00 /060 W

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P 061030Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4992

DIA WASHDC AH-3 PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5146

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, LA, TH

SUBJ: ARREST OF THAI ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHES

1. ON ARRIVING FOR FAREWELL CALL ON THAI AMBASSADOR SWATE KOMALABHUTI AFTERNOON AUGUST 6, I FOUND AMBASSADOR IN STATE OF SOME SHOCK. HARDLY HAD WE SHAKEN HANDS, HE ASKED, "HAVE YOU HEARD NEWS?" I HADN'T. NEWS WAS THAT AT 3 P.M. AUGUST 5, POLICE HAD ENTERED HOUSE WHERE TWO THAI ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHES LIVED AND ARRESTED THEM. THIS MORNING THAI EMBASSY SENT NOTE OF PROTEST TO MFA. AMBASSADOR ASKED TO SEE ACTING MINFONAF BUT HE WAS BUSY WITH CABINET MEETING. COUNSELOR SAW MINFONAF CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH WHO PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF EVENT. THERE ARE NO CHARGES. TWO MAJORS ARE BEING HELD AT SAME LOCATION NEAR U.S. EMBASSY WHERE ROSEMARY CONWAY HAS BEEN IMPRISONED, AND WHICH IS EVIDENTLY INTERROGATION CENTER.

2. ON ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THAI-LAO RELATIONS, SWATE WAS ALSO DEPRESSED. AS HE HAD MENTIONED EARLIER
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 05146 061111Z

(VIENTIANE 5006), HE SAID HE HAD PROPOSED TO MINFONAF

PHOUNE TO CONVENE A JOINT COMMITTEE TO STUDY DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE ARISEN ON MEKONG AND TO INVITE LAO RED CROSS REPS TO PARTICIPATE WITH ICRC AND UNHCR IN INVESTIGATION OF LAO REFUGEES IN THAILAND. AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. HE PRESUMES THAT EVERYTHING MUST BE REFERRED TO SAM NEUA FOR A DECISION.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHO ACTUALLY DECIDED ON THE ARRESTS AND FOR WHAT REASONS. WE CANNOT THEREFORE DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS BEYOND NOTING THAT THEY POINT UP THE DEGREE TO WHICH THAI-LAO RELATIONS HAVE DETERIORATED.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, MILITARY ATTACHES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI05146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750271-0068
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750875/aaaacosc.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF THAI ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHES
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, LA, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006